

SMALL-FOOTPRINT FUSE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and an apparatus for protecting an electrical circuit against excessive currents by a fuse assembly. The fuse assembly is configured to interrupt the flow of current through the electrical circuit by increasing dielectric separation between two ends of a fuse element prepared in a form substantially representing a curve. The fuse element is coupled to a pair of conductive endcaps and a dielectric material substantially encloses the fuse element between the endcaps. The method of increasing dielectric separation between two ends of a fuse element includes preparing the fuse element in the form substantially representing the curve, coupling the fuse element between a pair of conductive endcaps, and enclosing the fuse element in a dielectric material which is formed such that a portion of the dielectric material extends into the area bounded by the fuse element and a line intersecting the two ends of the fuse element.